

NATIONAL EPA-TRIBAL SCIENCE COUNCIL

Conference Call Roll Call and Key Discussion Points Monday, September 18, 2017 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. EDT

Roll Call

Tribal Caucus

- ☐ Region 1: TBD
- ☒ Region 1 *Alternate*: Trevor White
(Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indian Township)
- ☐ Region 2: Neil Patterson (Tuscarora Nation)
- ☐ Region 4: Katie Tiger (Eastern Band of
Cherokee Indians)
- ☒ Region 5: Jeffrey Mears (Oneida Nation)
- ☒ Region 6: Rick Dubois (Seneca-Cayuga Nation)
- ☐ Region 6 *Alternate*: Rebecca Bond (Kickapoo
Tribe of Oklahoma)
- ☒ Region 7: Carol Kriebs (Sac and Fox Nation)
- ☐ Region 7 *Alternate*: Dan Redowl (Santee Sioux
Tribe)
- ☐ Region 8: TBD
- ☐ Region 8 *Alternate*: Scott Clow (Ute Mountain
Ute Tribe)
- ☒ Region 9: Carley Whitecrane (Karuk Tribe)
- ☐ Region 9 *Alternate*: Javier Silva (Sherwood
Valley Tribal Environmental Program)
- ☐ Region 10: Lee Juan Tyler (Shoshone Bannock
Tribes)
- ☐ Region 10 *Alternate*: Ladd Edmo (Shoshone
Bannock Tribes)
- ☒ Region 10 (Alaska): Orville Huntington
(Tanana Chiefs Conference)

EPA Caucus

- ☐ Region 1: Robert Hillger
- ☒ Region 2: Kai Tang
- ☒ Region 3: Regina Poeske
- ☒ Region 4: Dawn Taylor
- ☒ Region 5: Luke Hullinger
- ☐ Region 5 *Alternate*: Carole Braverman
- ☐ Region 6: TBD
- ☒ Region 7: Amy Shields
- ☒ Region 7: *Alternate*: Amber Tilley
- ☐ Region 8: TBD
- ☒ Region 9: Destinee Cooper
- ☒ Region 10: Lon Kissinger
- ☐ AIEO: Mary Powell
- ☒ OAR: Amanda Kaufman
- ☒ OCHP: Ted Coopwood
- ☒ OCSP: Karen Hamernik
- ☐ OEI: Beth Jackson
- ☐ OLEM: David Charters
- ☒ ORD: David Jewett
- ☒ ORD: John McKernan
- ☐ OW: Karen Gude

Support Personnel

- ☒ Monica Rodia, TSC Executive Secretary
- ☒ Kristen LeBaron, Contract Support
- ☒ Rachel Pisarski, Contract Support

Other Attendees/Invited Speakers

- ☒ Ken Bailey
- ☒ Liz Blackburn
- ☒ Martin Dana
- ☒ Rob Weber
- ☒ Kelly Overstreet

Action Items

1. Monica Rodia will send the June 2017 face-to-face meeting summary to the members after the TSC members have finished reviewing it.
2. Amy Shields will send Monica the contact information for the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma members who can provide a science seminar on harmful algal blooms (HABs).

Key Discussion Points

Introduction of New Member

- Rick Dubois, the new Tribal Representative for Region 6, introduced himself.

Minutes

- All TSC teleconference minutes have been finalized and sent to the members.
- The Co-Chairs are reviewing the summary from the recent face-to-face meeting; TSC members are invited to send comments, as well. Monica will send the summary to the members when it has been finalized.

Tribal Caucus Update

- Jeff Mears, Carol Kriebs, Rick and Dave Jewett attended the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum in August and met with the National Tribal Toxics Council (NTTC) to discuss how the TSC can help to explore the lead issue in Indian country. The NTTC shared a display table with the TSC, and the TSC was able to present its recently developed poster and distribute the new informational brochure.
- Jeff recently attended the Region 5 Regional Tribal Operations Committee meeting, and several members are interested in being alternate representatives on the TSC.
- Jeff encouraged the Tribal Representatives to attend the upcoming Agenda Development Team teleconference.

EPA Caucus Update

- Dave agreed that the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum was fruitful. Amanda Hauff provided a presentation about lead in Indian country.
- Ideas are needed the November and January science seminars. A possible topic introduced during the EPA Caucus teleconference is tools for environmental decision making.
- Amy noted that the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma could present about HABs. She will send Monica the contact information, and Monica will arrange for the tribe to present. The Haskell Indian Nations University Tribal ecoAmbassadors also could present about their composting efforts; they presented to the TSC when the project was just beginning, and it would be worthwhile to hear an update about their work.

TSC Science Seminar

Tribal Perspectives on Lead Webinar Recording: epawebconferencing.acms.com/p997ffieh6

Oneida Nation Lead Program (Jeff Mears, Oneida Nation)

- The Oneida Nation, located outside of Green Bay, Wisconsin, was established 10 years before Wisconsin became a state, and five municipalities and two counties are overlaid on the reservation. The reservation has the same infrastructure as responsible local governments (e.g., schools, police), leases space to “big box” stores (e.g., Home Depot, Walmart), and runs a commercial farm and a golf course at which a recent Ladies Professional Golf Association golf tournament was held.

- The seal of the state of Wisconsin includes a miner and lead ingots because Wisconsin was known for lead mining. The state was nicknamed the “Badger State” because when lead miners came up from underground they reminded people of badgers popping out of their holes.
- The Oneida Nation Museum sold rattles made by a First Nations citizen that were filled with lead shot, which ultimately leaked. Jeff ordered a recall, but the museum was resistant to an instant recall and instead wanted to delay to develop a plan to deal with public perception and refunds. Because this was an immediate health threat, the recall was issued immediately despite the museum’s resistance.
- Oneida Nation has a Direct Implementation Tribal Cooperative Agreement (DITCA) that allows tribal staff to work on behalf of EPA. The tribe performs lead outreach under EPA’s authority. Under the DITCA, the tribe offered renovation, repair and painting training to tribes in Wisconsin. Oneida staff and contractors offered three classes to workers who might encounter lead in the course of their work.
- Because interdepartmental communication can be difficult, the Oneida Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) Division has a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Oneida Community Health Services Department. The Oneida Community Health Services Department also has an MOA with the Brown County Health Department, which allows the county to refer Oneida lead cases to the Oneida EH&S Division. Jeff stressed the importance of reaching out to other organizations and developing binding documents to ensure that a tribe builds a comprehensive lead program. Oneida nurses have local expertise and can contact the Oneida EH&S Division for additional assistance.
- The tribe also has children’s outreach materials, including successful Halloween-themed materials, that are displayed at various events.
- While the TSC met in Rapid City, South Dakota, a report was released that lead has been detected in 20 percent of baby food samples. No level of lead is considered safe, especially because of its cumulative effects. Even small amounts of lead exposure from water, baby food or the home accumulate and have insidious long-term effects on IQ, behavior, quality of life, ability to learn and eventually attend college, and so forth.

Discussion

- Ted Coopwood is impressed with the Oneida Nation’s lead work, and the tribe can serve as a model. He would like to look for ways to increase funding to strengthen training about lead abatement to tribes.
- Dave noted that the lead issue has been present for a long time, and he wondered if this had caused complacency. EPA’s current lead initiative is important to put the focus back on this problem.
- Karen Hamernik asked whether Oneida EH&S tracks the sources when receiving a report about a child with elevated lead blood levels. Is there a predominant source? Jeff responded that the main source appears to be older housing stock off the reservation. The reservation has newer housing stock. He cited one incident that occurred as a result of a stained glass-making hobby.

Children’s Lead Exposures From Older Housing Stock (Trevor White, Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indian Township)

- More than one-half of the homes in Maine may contain lead paint. Exposure to lead is most common in buildings built before 1950 and in buildings built before 1978 when repainting or remodeling is done. Indian Township has 220 homes. The tribe’s environmental department expected that a high number of tribal homes would contain lead-based paint.

- EPA awarded the tribe funding to begin the Indian Township Lead Program in 1997, and the program was established in 1998. Staff members were trained as State Lead Inspectors at no cost through funding agreements with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and EPA.
- The tribe's environmental program was young at the time and viewed with suspicion, so it was necessary to educate the community prior to taking any action. An article was printed in the environmental newsletter explaining lead and its effects, especially the harm to children, and potential household sources. Education first was provided at the tribe's annual tribal health fair in 2001, and a lead hazard/awareness questionnaire presented at the fair was well-received. As a result, the department was able to perform lead inspections and blood lead screening. Presentations continue to be given each year at the health fair.
- Presentations are made every year to Indian Township School students regarding lead and its dangers. Children are encouraged to discuss the issue with their parents. An engaging mascot participates in the presentations to school children.
- The environmental department also developed a "Healthy Kid, Lead Safe Kid" brochure.
- The tribal lead program was able to purchase an X-ray fluorescence analyzer in 1998 with grant funds. The manufacturer provided training, and the tribe received its radiation license from the state of Maine. The analyzer currently is not active because the tribe does not have the funds for the annual maintenance expenses.
- Of the 49 pre-1980 homes tested, only two residences in Indian Township contained lead-based paint; however, components within the homes contained lead (e.g., window blinds). Homes containing lead-based paint were older homes on alienated lots now owned by tribal members. Many tribal government service buildings (e.g., forestry building, church) contained lead-based paint.
- In summary, the majority of residences on the reservation did not have lead-based paint, whereas the majority of the homes in the service area did. The lead screening tool showed that lead was present, but none of the children showed a level high enough to warrant further blood lead testing. Many of the tribal government buildings and all the Catholic church properties contained lead-based paint.
- The lead program no longer receives EPA funding but continues a "Tribal Healthy Homes Program" that includes lead, asbestos and mold screening and insect and animal infestation mitigation. The environmental department also continues to educate the community about the dangers of lead-based paint and the importance of not using lead fishing sinkers.

Discussion

- Amy asked which of the activities had been the most successful at communicating risk to the community. Trevor responded that the health fair was definitely the most successful.

TSC Business Items

2017 Fall Face-to-Face Meeting

- Julia Sage of the National Tribal Caucus would like to attend the face-to-face meeting.
- The contractor is in negotiation with Talking Stick to hold the meeting at its facilities the week of December 4.

Agenda Development Team

- The team includes the Co-Chairs, Javier Silva, Orville Huntington, Carol, Rick, Kai Tang, Destinee Cooper, Ted Coopwood, Dawn Taylor and Cynthia McOliver.
- The team will hold its kickoff teleconference on September 25.

Announcements

- None of the participants offered any announcements.

Next TSC Teleconference

- The next TSC teleconference will be held on October 16 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. EDT.